DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
NAVAL SURFACE WARFARE CENTER
CARDEROCK DIVISION

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Ser 9631S/067 IN REPLY REFER TO
19 MAY 2000

From: Commanding Officer, Naval Ship Systems Engineering Station, Carderock Division, Naval Surface Warfare Center
To: Commander, Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command Headquarters San Diego (Code PMW-158-2)

Subj: HAZMAT TRANSPORTATION AND DISPOSAL GUIDELINES FOR FIBER OPTIC APPLICATIONS

Ref: (a) NSWCCD-SSES ltr 9504 Ser 9542/028, Subj: Navy Recommended Fiber Optic Components Parts List, of 1 Apr 98

1. Purpose

This letter addresses guidelines for the transportation and disposal of two-part epoxy, as listed in reference (a), and of isopropyl alcohol used in fiber optic connector terminations and cleaning procedures. Guidelines are provided for disposal of fiber ends and consumables used while working with epoxy also. This letter provides guidance that is general and appropriate for most, if not all applications. This guidance and the materials used are not meant to be all-inclusive and must be augmented/tailored for each service being performed (installation or repair) and for variations in local and state ordinances. Consult your activity Hazmat Officer for final guidance.

2. Hazardous material transportation.

a. General. Two-part epoxy, as listed in reference (a), and isopropyl alcohol may be shipped by air transportation in limited quantities. Proper markings and labels must be present on the package. All shipping and labeling must be in accordance with 49 CRF (Code of Federal Regulations), Parts 171-179. Site/Facility personnel trained for shipment of hazardous materials must complete the hazardous material shipping forms and provide/verify proper markings and labels on the package.

b. Transportation information on MSDS. The Material Safety Data Sheet written in the last several years may contain transportation information. The USDOT or IATA ID number must be provided to determine allowable methods to ship the material.

c. Shipping company. Questions concerning shipment of hazardous material by FED-EX may be addressed by the following points of contact:

(1) Air transportation: (800) 463-3339, extension 81.

(2) Ground transportation: (800) ROAD PAK, need to have the Activity Account Number before FED-EX will respond to any questions.

d. For all waste and expired shelf life materials, arrangements must be made to have it disposed of at the facility where the work is being done.

3. Hazardous material waste disposal control measure.

a. Two-part epoxy. Two-part epoxies, cited in reference (a), come in packets separated into two parts, hardener and resin. The hardener is a corrosive material. The gelled epoxy becomes a piece of thermoset plastic and may be disposed of as non-hazardous waste. Leftover epoxy, that has been mixed, may be disposed of with the non-hazardous waste once it is hardened. Some types of two-part epoxies may need to be heated in order to cure. If the hardener goes bad, then the epoxy will not gel and must be disposed of as hazardous waste.

b. Fiber ends. Preferred disposal for cleaved ends of optical fiber is to place them in a plastic bottle. An alternate means is to wrap the fiber in a layer of tape. The placement of fiber ends in a bottle is preferred since tape wrapped fiber usually is deposited into local, trash cans. Personnel emptying these trash cans are not aware of the potential fiber hazard to their hands and may compress trash or remove stuck tape by hand. The plastic bottle should have a small neck (so fiber ends do not spill out easily if tipped over) and not use a snap-off cap or cover (so don't launch fibers out of the bottle in the jerking motion of opening the bottle cap).

c. Isopropyl alcohol. This is a landfill-banned item. Non-used alcohol, such as contaminated bottles, must be disposed of as hazardous waste.

d. Consumables containing mixed, dry epoxy. Dispose of dirty rags, wipes, syringes and other consumables containing mixed, dry epoxies by placing them in a waste container.

4. Feedback on implementation.

Please inform us of the control measures implemented or being considered for implementation at your site.

5. Point of contact.

Please direct questions or comments to the Naval Surface Warfare Center Carderock Division, Ship Systems Engineering Station (NSWCCD-SSES) point of contact for fiber optic component testing, E. Bluebond. He can be contacted by FAX: (215) 897-8509 or E-mail: bluebond@spawar.navy.mil.

J. A. DOLAN
By direction